

Keep Your Education Costs as Low as Possible *here's how!*

- ▶ Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at www.fafsa.ed.gov as soon as possible after January 1 of each year for the best shot at scholarships or grants.
- ▶ Before borrowing, seek out scholarships, grants and other aid that doesn't have to be repaid.
- ▶ Contact your school's financial aid office for information about institutional and other aid available at that school.
- ▶ If you need to borrow, consider Federal Direct student loans first; they are usually the lowest-cost loans available with no credit requirements.

Why choose the Alaska Supplemental Education Loan?

- ▶ As a state agency, it is ACPE's mission in law and commitment to serve Alaska residents with the lowest costs possible.
- ▶ Low fixed interest rates and borrower benefits.
- ▶ Excellent customer service: 24-hour account access online and a team of Alaskans who care about you.
- ▶ Loans are serviced by the Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education.

Borrower Benefits

As your state higher education agency, ACPE's goal is to keep your loan costs as low as possible through annual cost reductions. Check out the current year's borrower benefits at acpe.alaska.gov.

COMPARE
federal and
state loans



Questions?

800.441.2962
907.465.2962
(in Juneau)
907.465-3143 TTY
ACPE@alaska.gov

Talk with one of
our Alaska-based
customer service
specialists



Heather, with ACPE for 7 years

Collection: rocks of all shapes & sizes
Top food pick: fish head soup & wild mushrooms
Biggest fear: the dark & things that go bump in the night

Pro Tip Private, for-profit lenders may also offer alternative education loans. Be wary of teaser interest rates that can vary (meaning they change – and can go up significantly), interest that is frequently capitalized (added to the balance of the loan), and fees that may greatly increase borrowing costs.



Adam, with ACPE for 6 years

Go-To Winter activity: working out or watching movies
Dream vacation: give me either a roller coaster or a gorilla
Favorite quote: "Hulk SMASH!" – The Hulk

or Adam

Pro Tip As a rule of thumb—monthly student loan payments should not exceed 10% of your monthly salary.

For example:

If you expect to earn \$30,000 a year after you graduate, you should plan on spending no more than about \$200 per month on your education loan payments. If your loan has an interest rate of 6.7% and a repayment period of 10 years, you should not plan to borrow more than about \$18,000 for your education.

acpe.alaska.gov

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7/2014

Alaska Supplemental Education Loan

0% Origination Fee
6.4% APR



Alaska Student Loan Corporation

#1 Alaska Borrower Satisfaction Rate*

acpe.alaska.gov

* 2013 Alaska Student Loan Survey

THE ALASKA SUPPLEMENTAL EDUCATION LOAN (ASEL) is a low-cost option for students to cover education costs not met through savings, grants, scholarships, or Federal Direct student loans.

Eligibility

The Basics:

- ▶ Be a US citizen or eligible non-citizen, compliant with Selective Service requirements
- ▶ Be an Alaska resident or a student at an eligible school in Alaska
- ▶ Meet school FAFSA requirements
- ▶ Have a high school diploma or equivalent (GED), or a recognized Ability-To-Benefit alternative
- ▶ Enroll at least half time in a career/technical education certificate or degree-seeking program of study, including some programs not eligible for federal aid

Credit:

- ▶ Have a FICO credit score of 680 or higher, or an eligible cosigner
- ▶ Be in good standing on any prior Alaska education loan
- ▶ Be current with any child support obligations

The requirements of AS 14.43.172 and 20 AAC 15.705 also apply.

The Loan Application Process

*Apply Now!
acpe.alaska.gov*

1. Complete the ASEL application/promissory note packet. You'll get funds faster if you apply online at acpe.alaska.gov, where you can complete your credit check instantly if you choose. If you don't have a qualifying FICO score, you may add a credit-worthy cosigner while you're online.
2. If the application is approved, ACPE will send you a Loan Approval Disclosure (LAD) that you'll need to accept. It's fastest if you log back on to your acpe.alaska.gov account and electronically accept the loan.
3. Your loan funds will be sent to your school based on the school's scheduled financial aid disbursement dates, but no sooner than 10 days after you accept the LAD.

Make sure to check with your school's financial aid office to see if they have any other steps before you can get your financial aid.

What is a FICO score?

The FICO score is a credit score ranging from 300 to 850; higher is better.

The national average FICO score is 692 and the average Alaska score is 691.* A FICO credit score doesn't consider employment or income; it is based on your general history of incurring and repaying debt. Many high school seniors entering college for the first time may not have a 680 FICO score due to their limited credit history. A free score estimate is available at: <http://www.whatsmyscore.org/estimator/>.

**Source: www.money-zine.com 2011 data*

What are my options if I do not have a 680 FICO score?

You may still borrow with a cosigner who meets the required credit criteria. Through the online application you can send an instant request to a potential cosigner if you don't have the required FICO score.

Your family may also want to consider another Alaska state loan like the Alaska Family Education Loan (FEL) which does not require a FICO score, only an absence of derogatory credit. This is a loan to the family member and repayment is ongoing while you are in school.

Funds may be limited. Loans will be made to earliest applicants first.



No Payments While in School

ASEL Costs & Benefits

2014-2015	In School	Repayment
Fixed Interest Rate	6.70%¹ (6.40 APR)²	6.70%¹ (6.4 APR)²
Borrower Benefits³		
Alaska Presence	-0.50%	-0.50%
Online auto-pay		-0.25%
Lowest Rate Equivalent	6.20%	5.95%
Origination Fee	0%	

New For 2014!

¹ The rate is set by the Alaska Student Loan Corporation Board

² APR = Annual Percentage Rate. The APR example assumes a principal loan amount of \$8,500, freshman borrower scheduled for graduation in four years, with repayment beginning after a 6-month grace period. The APR does not include the effects of borrower benefits.

³ Borrower Benefits are typically applied as quarterly or annual account credits or reductions to borrower-paid costs whenever the Alaska Student Loan Corporation has the capacity to do so. Benefits are variable, meaning that a new benefits package may be offered each program year. Borrowers who are delinquent or default on their loans may forfeit some or all benefits.

Loan Limits⁴

Program	Annual	Aggregate
Career Training (Vocational)	\$6,500	\$42,500
Undergraduate	\$8,500	\$42,500
Graduate	\$9,500	\$47,500
Combined		\$60,000

⁴You may not borrow more than your cost of attendance less other financial aid. Loan amounts are prorated based on the term of attendance. For example, an undergraduate student attending for only one semester is eligible for half of the annual limit (\$4,250).

Disbursement

Your ASEL funds will be sent directly to your school's financial aid office, in accordance with their scheduled financial aid disbursement dates.

Repayment

Repayment begins six months after you stop attending school at least half time. The standard repayment period is ten years. Your monthly payment will be based on your total debt, but no lower than \$50.00 a month.